

Newsletter from Colorado Springs City Councilmember Nancy Henjum

I'm so glad to connect with you through this May edition of my Newsletter. Each month (mostly), I share updates on city projects, events you can join, resources for residents, and stories from around our community.

Grateful to serve,

Nancy

Councilmember, District 5 – Colorado Springs



Five Years in District 5: Gratitude, Grit, and the Work Ahead

Five years. It's hard to believe, but this month marks five years of serving as your District 5 City Councilmember. Councilmember Kimberly Gold surprised me recently with a giant "5" balloon to mark the milestone, and I have to say, holding that number gave me a moment to pause and reflect on what these years have meant. The photo here captures the joy of that moment, but it also captures something deeper: the privilege of doing this work alongside neighbors and colleagues who care deeply about this place we call home.

When I look back, what stands out most is not any single vote or proclamation, but [the people](#). District 5 is a remarkably diverse district, and the neighborhoods I've had the chance to learn from are too many to name here, but just a few include [Papeton](#), [Cragmor](#), [Roswell](#), [Old North End](#), [Patty Jewett](#), [Rustic Hills](#), [Bonnyville](#), [Village Seven](#), [Villa Loma](#), [Wasson](#), and [Palmer Park](#). The neighbors in these communities and so many others have organized block by block, looked out for one another, and shown me what civic life looks like at its best. I've learned much from constituents who emailed me late at night with questions, ideas, and sometimes frustrations. And I honor the fellow councilmembers across the political spectrum who show up to do the work, even when we disagree.

Some of the hardest votes I've taken on housing, utility rates, and land use have also been the ones that taught me the most about listening, weighing tradeoffs, and being honest with you about where I land and why.

I've also learned that civility is not a soft virtue. It is the connective tissue of a functioning democracy. Whether it's been co-hosting Learning Townhalls, finding common ground with colleagues who see the world differently than I do, or simply choosing to listen before reacting, I've come to believe that how we engage with one another matters as much as the policies we pass. Disagreement is healthy. Disrespect is corrosive. I will keep working to model the difference.



If there is one message I want to share as I begin year six, it is this: [thank you for paying attention](#). Local government, city council, school boards, county commission, special districts, is the layer of government that touches your daily life most directly. It shapes the road you drive, the park you walk in, the water that comes out of your tap, the rate you pay for electricity, the trash that gets picked up, the safety of your neighborhood. National headlines may be louder, but local decisions are closer. Readers like you, who take the time to stay informed, ask questions, attend meetings, and hold your elected officials accountable, are the reason this work functions at all.

Looking ahead, there is much more to do. [Affordable housing, transportation safety, responsible growth, a sustainable utility system, and rebuilding trust in our public institutions](#) will continue to demand our collective attention. I am energized for the final three years of my service, and grateful – deeply grateful – to be doing it with you.

Data Centers: An important piece of the puzzle

Nation-, state-, and city-wide, there is much interest in the purpose and impact of large data centers that are support developments in computing technology and artificial intelligence. The proposed Taurus Project in Council District 1 on the City's northwest side will come before the City Planning Commission and ultimately City Council over the next couple of months, and I strongly encourage you to follow local reporting, do your own research, and attend relevant meetings.

Because the vote on the Taurus Project will be *quasi-judicial* (see the sidebar), I am limited in what I can say prior to the official Council meeting. But I did want to give you some information from Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) about an important piece of the data center puzzle: [cost](#). A natural question ordinary rate-payers should ask: [How is my budget affected when large customers come online?](#)

CSU has a special tariff intended "to ensure that large customers (such as data centers) pay the full cost of providing service, without shifting costs onto families or businesses of Colorado Springs." Directly from CSU:

For certain land-use decisions, City Council acts not as a policy-making body but in a [quasi-judicial capacity](#), with each Council member serving as a judge who must decide impartially based on findings of fact. Because due process applies, Council members may not discuss the merits of a pending quasi-judicial matter outside the public hearing itself.

For electric service at 10 megawatts (MW) and above, customers take service under the Industrial Service – Large-Load rate. This rate requires long-term agreements and ensures large customers pay for the full amount of capacity they request, even if they do not use all of it. These customers also pay the full cost of any infrastructure needed to serve them, and if additional power is required, power is purchased and assigned only to that customer.

Large customers follow a defined process that includes an intake request and detailed studies to evaluate system impacts and resource needs before service is approved.

A similar approach applies to water service. Any request at or above 0.25 million gallons per day triggers a large-load water study to evaluate available supply, system capacity and delivery needs. CSU works directly with customers to ensure efficient water use and minimize water loss.

CSU's Large-Load Rate ensures they are willing and prepared to serve all customers—large and small—by creating a clear process, providing access to power through the market, and ensuring costs are fairly assigned.

“Safe Streets COS” launches with new school zone safety improvements at Mann Middle School

The City of Colorado Springs officially launched “Safe Streets COS,” a citywide initiative focused on reducing traffic crashes and improving safety for everyone who uses Colorado Springs roadways. City leaders gathered at Mann Middle School recently to highlight new school zone safety improvements and reinforce the importance of slowing down and driving safely near schools.

Safe Streets COS is driven primarily by the Transportation Safety Action Plan and related data dashboard. It captures current and future safety items undertaken by the city. Current projects supporting Safe Street COS include school zone implementation, safety demonstration projects, the red-light camera program, and the speed safety camera program.

I encourage you to learn more about Safe Streets COS and ongoing traffic safety efforts at [ColoradoSprings.gov/SafeStreetsCOS](https://coloradosprings.gov/SafeStreetsCOS).



City of Colorado Springs releases 2025 Public Works annual report highlighting infrastructure progress and service delivery

I often make the point that much of what matters most to people isn't the big, splashy stuff that makes the headlines in our national media. It is the quality of life right here, in your own neighborhood, on your own block. Please take some time to look at the 2025 Public Works Department Annual Report which will give you all kinds of information about immediate, quality of life “stuff” outlining *roadway improvements, transit ridership and critical maintenance work citywide*.

The full Public Works 2025 Annual Report is available online at [ColoradoSprings.gov/infrastructure-projects](https://coloradosprings.gov/infrastructure-projects).

Ride of Silence raises public awareness about cycling safety

As both a cyclist myself and a member of City Council, I have participated in this important ride and invite you to join me again this year. From Colorado Springs Cycling:



Join the Ride of Silence on May 20, 2026 at 7:00 pm. This annual global event honors cyclists injured or killed on public roadways and raises awareness that cyclists have a legal right to share the road.

All cyclists are invited to join.

For background: <https://www.rideofsilence.org/main.php>

The nine-mile ride drew 60 riders last year; the goal this year is 100 or more. We will maintain a speed of 8 mph but no more than 12 mph, and we will ride completely in silence with police motorcycle escort. The ride is free and open to all cyclists (road, MTB, trail, gravel, recreational, recumbent). Minors must be accompanied by an adult.

The ride begins and ends at Colorado Springs City Hall. Helmets and a signed waiver are required.

The ride is free, but staging it is not. Donations of \$100 or more receive sponsor recognition. You can contribute [online](#): or mail a check to: Colorado Springs Cycling, PO Box 49602, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9602



At-large Councilmembers sponsor townhall

In addition to district Councilmembers like me, Colorado Springs has 3 at-large members elected city-wide who also represent you. **All three at-large Council positions will be on the City ballot in April 2027.**

I'm pleased to see our at-large Councilmembers hosting a community-wide townhall next month. [I strongly encourage all residents and voters to attend.](#)

WHAT: Town Hall to bring City leaders and residents together in respectful dialogue

WHERE: Downtown Family YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave

WHO: At Large Councilmembers: Council President Lynette Crow-Iverson, President Pro Tem Brian Risley, and David Leinweber, with Braver Angels Facilitators

WHEN: Tuesday, June 2, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Residents are encouraged to [register here](#).


COLORADO SPRINGS
CITY COUNCIL


Braver
Angels

AT LARGE TOWNHALL

Colorado Springs residents are invited to take part in a community townhall hosted by At Large Councilmembers David Leinweber, Brian Risley, and Lynette Crow-Iverson, this event brings city leaders and residents together for a constructive conversation about issues that matter most to our community.



TUESDAY, JUNE 2
With support from trained Braver Angels moderators, the town hall will emphasize respectful dialogue, listening to understand, and collaborative problem-solving. Residents are encouraged to ask questions, share perspectives, and engage directly with city staff in a setting designed to foster productive exchange.
☒ Downtown YMCA
☒ 207 N Nevada Ave
6:00PM - 8:00PM
719-385-5986
[ColoradoSprings.gov/CityCouncil](https://coloradosprings.gov/CityCouncil)



